

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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Use Candles with Caution

Wind and rain have been hitting Washington State hard causing numerous power outages. State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick reminds us, "Candles are tools that should be used with extreme caution. This year alone, fire agencies have reported four fire deaths in homes caused by candles."

Families can reduce their risk of fire by following these fire safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside every sleeping room. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Never leave candles unattended and ensure candles are extinguished after each use.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Use sturdy candle holders made of glass, metal, or ceramic. Ensure the candle holder will not tip over.
- Keep anything that can burn away from lit candles. This includes combustible decorations, bedding, curtains, and clothing.

"A home escape plan can aid in increasing you and your family's survival of a fire emergency. By creating and practicing a plan that is unique to your home, it is more likely that everyone will get out alive," says Fire Marshal Matlick. If you need information on home safety inspections or home escape plans, please visit our website at www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/prevent/inspection.pdf or contact your local fire agency.

PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!